

EMINENT DOMAIN

(Mr. RYUN of Kansas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, the House will vote this week on H.R. 4128, the Property Protection Act, to secure all Americans' rights to what they have earned. On June 23 of this year, the Supreme Court ruled 5 to 4 in the decision of *Kelo v. City of New London* that economic development can be a public use under the fifth amendment's taking clause.

The public reaction to this decision was both swift and decisive. In Kansas, people are outraged. In a polling conducted by the Wall Street Journal, 11 out of 12 Americans said they oppose the taking of private property, even if it is for public economic good.

H.R. 4128 would prohibit the Federal Government from taking personal property, private property for economic development purposes. The bill would also deny States and localities from receiving any Federal economic development funds if they abuse their eminent domain power. H.R. 4128 would negate this unfortunate ruling and restore Americans' constitutional right to be secure in the property that they have worked hard to obtain. I urge the House to stand with me and protect private property rights.

MCCAIN AMENDMENT TO DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS BILL

(Mr. MORAN of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support for instructing conferees on this year's defense appropriations bill to include the amendment by our colleague in the Senate, JOHN MCCAIN. This provision would simply provide for uniform standards for the interrogation of persons under the detention of the Defense Department and a prohibition on cruel, inhumane, or degrading treatment or punishment of persons under custody or control of the U.S. government.

Mr. Speaker, in the wake of the scrutiny and embarrassment that our Nation has endured following the treatment of detainees at Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo Bay, it is imperative that we proclaim to the rest of the world that this policy defined by this amendment does in fact reflect the law of the land and the conscience of our country. Providing our soldiers with clear written guidance on how to treat detainees not only protects their interests but underscores the freedoms and the values we cherish as Americans and that we claim to be the very reason we have gone to war in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other parts of the world.

Today, as a Congress, we must respect and honor our Nation and those that risk their lives to serve it, and we can do that by supporting the McCain

amendment in the defense appropriations bill.

BEHEADINGS IN INDONESIA

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share the outrage of the people of Indonesia with my colleagues regarding a case of horror that occurred this past weekend.

While walking to school on the morning of Saturday, October 29, in Central Sulawesi, three teenage girls were attacked by Islamic extremists. The attackers murdered the young ladies by hacking them with machetes and eventually severing their heads from their bodies.

Why this attack? They had done nothing wrong. They were simply teenage girls walking to school.

As this horrible tragedy affirms, the Indonesian government must crack down strongly and firmly on these barbaric extremists in Indonesia. Otherwise, these terrifying events will continue.

Photos are too graphic to show, but they show a young girl wearing a Princess Diaries t-shirt who will never again have the chance to dream like many little girls do of being a princess. Extremists have robbed her of her dream.

I urge the Indonesian government to spare no resource in rooting out these extremist perpetrators and other human rights violators from Indonesian society.

BUDGET CUTS IMPACT LATINO EDUCATION

(Ms. SOLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the Republican proposal to cut \$14 billion from Federal student aid programs. Education is the key to opportunity for all who live in America. This is particularly true for Latino students.

Latino students currently represent 44 percent, or 2.7 million, of California's students enrolled in elementary and secondary schools. Yet more than 61 percent do not graduate and only 39 percent of those Latino students in LA receive a high school diploma.

Latinos only represent 12 percent of all undergraduates who attend colleges and universities. For many low-income working-class students, financial barriers are the determining factor in whether or not they go to college.

Instead of helping to allow our students to achieve greater access to higher education, the college gap is widening. Republicans propose a budget that will make the largest cut to student aid programs in history and will force the typical student borrower to pay an additional \$5,800 for his or her college student loans. I urge my col-

leagues to vote against these cuts and instead make sure every student in the country has access to affordable college opportunities.

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(Mr. DOOLITTLE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, everyone remembers the schoolyard bully who pushed the smaller kids around and took their lunch money just because he was bigger and stronger. Bullying wasn't okay in elementary school and it isn't okay now, especially when it comes in the form of a U.S. Supreme Court decision.

In *Kelo v. City of New London*, the Supreme Court empowered the government to seize private property, including someone's own home or place of worship, and transfer it to another private owner as long as the transfer would provide an economic benefit to the community. Simply put, the Supreme Court has given government the broad power to seize private property for any use, so long as it generates tax revenue.

Tomorrow, the House will take up H.R. 4128, the Private Property Rights Protection Act, in an attempt to prevent the abuses the Court has allowed by its decision in the *Kelo* case. The bill prohibits States and localities from receiving any Federal economic development funds if these entities abuse their power of eminent domain.

This action is an appropriate use of Congress' spending power and will prevent homeowners, churches, and small businesses from being forced to give up their private property simply because it is not generating the maximum possible tax revenue.

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BLAMING WRONG PEOPLE FOR EMINENT DOMAIN DECISION

(Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I agree with the previous speaker and many of the other Republican speakers that the recent decision allowing eminent domain for private economic gain was a bad one. But my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are blaming some of the wrong people.

The Supreme Court was not the author of this policy. What the United States Supreme Court did in the *Kelo* case was to allow elected officials at the State and local level to go forward with what they wanted. In other words, the complaint of my Republican colleagues about the Supreme Court in this case is, where was judicial activism when we needed it?

They are denouncing the Supreme Court because it did not overturn the decision of locally elected officials. I